

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 SAJ-01 IO-10 AID-05

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R 251450Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 454

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 9541

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, US, EG, SY

SUBJ: NEW YORK TIMES REPORT OF COOLING USG/GOE RELATIONS

1. SO FAR TODAY WE HAVE HAD TWO INQUIRIES FROM AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ABOUT NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE BY HENRY TANNER WHICH WE UNDERSTAND APPEARED IN PARIS TRIBUNE NOV 23-24. ACCORING TO TEXT WHICH WE JUST RECEIVED FROM TANNER, ARTILCE ALLEGES SERIOUS COOLING OF USG/GOE RELATIONSHIP AND PREDICTS IMMINENT FAILURE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PEACE EFFORTS IN ME.

2. TWO EGYPTIAN COMMENTARIES WHICH APPEARED OVER THE WEEK-END WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GIVE FURTHER MATERIAL TO THOSE WHO SUPPORT TANNER'S THESIS. MUSTAFA AMIN, WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE VIRTUALLY UNCRITICAL SUPPORTER OF USG, WROTE IN AKHBAR AL-YAWM NOV.23 THAT ME SETTLEMENT IS NOW IN HANDS OF US AND USSR "AGAIN", IMPLYING UNILATERAL US ROLE HAS DEFINITELY ENDED. HE NOTES USSR "RIGHTLY" OBJECTED TO ANY ME SETTLEMENT TO WHICH IT WA NOT A PART.

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3. FOLLOWING DAY, CAIRO WEEKLY, ROSE AL-YUSUF, WHICH HAS

RECENTLY BEEN STRIDENTLY ANTI-AMERICAN AND PRO-SOVIET, PUBLISHED WHAT ARE ALLEGED TO BE "SECRET MINUTES" OF SECRETARY'S LAST MEETING WITH PRESIDENTS SADAT AND ASAD, CLAIMING SECRETARY'S LAST VISIT TO ME WAS MADE FOR PURPOSE OF DRIVING WEDGE BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA. SADAT "FIRMLY TURNED DOWN" PARTIAL SOLUTION ALLEGEDLY OFFERED BY SECRETARY, AS DID ASAD. SECRETARY TOLD SYRIANS THAT GOE IS WEAK AND IS ONLY WILLING DISCUSS NEW SINAI WITHDRAWAL; GOLAN MUST WAIT. "ASAD DID NOT SWALLOW THE BAIT. HE SAID SYRIA WELCOMES ANY ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI, BUT POINTED OUT SUCH TALK AIMS AT CAUSING DISSENTION IN ARAB RANKS AND NOT AT CREATING A STABLE PEACE."

4. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, PRESIDENT SADAT'S THREE HOUR TALKS WITH HAYKAL ON NOV 4 IS OFTEN CITED HERE AS "EVIDENCE" THAT USG/GOE RELATIONSHIP IS SOURING. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, WE UNDERSTAND CURRENT AHRAH EDITOR IN CHIEF IS TELLING FRIENDS HE IS SATISFIED THEIR DISCUSSION DID NOT DEAL WITH ANY POST ALLEGEDLY OFFERED TO KAYKAL BY GOE.

5. COMMENT: AS GOOD POLITICIANS, THE EGYPTIANS WILL NO DOUBT DO WHAT THEY CAN IN WEEKS BEFORE BREZHNEV ARRIVAL TO PATCH UP AT LEAST PUBLIC IMAGE OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP WIT USSR, FOR COMPELLING REASON THAT GOE WANTS AND NEEDS SOVIET ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE. IT SEEMS TO US INEVITABLE, THEREFORE, THAT THERE WILL BE FURTHER STORIES FILED FORM CAIRO ALLEGING OR IMPLYING A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE BETWEEN PRESIDENT SADAT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER. ONE JOURNALIST HAS ALREADY POINTED OUT "RETREAT" OF USG POSITION ON GENEVA WHICH HE PURPORTED TO DETECT IN VLADISVOSTOK COMMUNIQUE, I.E. THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD BE RECONVENED "ASAP". WITH BREZHNEV DUE HERE IN MID-JANUARY, WE CAN EXPECT SOVIETS AND THEIR FRIENDS TO CAPITALIZE BOTH ON EGYPTIAN DESIRE TO APPEAR GENUINELY "NON-ALIGNED", AND ALSO ON INCREASINGLY BITTER DISAPPOINTMENT FELT BY MANY OF OUR EGYPTIAN FRIENDS WHO BELIEVE WE HAVE NOT FULFILLED OUR "PROMISES", IN PARTICULAR, LACK OF ACTION ON \$250 MILLION AID RANKLES.
EILTS

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